



**US Army Corps
Of Engineers**

Walla Walla District
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News Release

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Contact: Public Affairs

Phone: (509) 527-7020

Woody debris at Little Goose Dam slated for passage downstream

STARBUCK, Wash, -- Water recreation enthusiasts should keep an eye out for floating woody debris in the lower Snake River between Little Goose and Lower Monumental dams starting at noon on Tuesday, May 30, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers officials announced today.

Because of high spring flows, an unusually large amount of floating wood, ranging from small twigs to telephone pole-sized logs, has accumulated upstream of Little Goose Lock and Dam. Officials at the dam estimate the floating log pile covers about three acres of the water's surface and is putting stress on the several-hundred-foot-long debris boom that keeps it from nearing the powerhouse side of the dam.

Operators will start the debris downstream by fully opening a spillway gate for about two hours, allowing the wood to pass the dam. The Corps cautions boaters, swimmers and others out enjoying the river on Lake West upstream of Lower Monumental Lock and Dam to watch for potentially hazardous floating debris for about two weeks after the wood is released downstream.

"It will take about two to three days for debris to start showing up at Lower Monumental, but it's uncertain how much will sink or wash up on shore and how much will ultimately arrive at the next dam," said Rex Baxter, a Walla Walla District fishery biologist in the headquarters' Operations Division.

"We've scheduled this for after the Memorial Day holiday to avoid inconveniencing folks out on the river that weekend," said Baxter, "but, depending on how much stress is put on the debris boom over the next few days, we may need to conduct this debris spill sooner than planned. We're keeping a close eye on the situation and will get the word out to the public if our plans have to change."

* A photo of the debris upstream of Little Goose Lock and Dam is available on the Internet at http://www.nww.usace.army.mil/html/offices/pa/NR/NR06_files/NR06.htm -- click on the photo link next to the news release.

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Public Affairs Office, Walla Walla District Headquarters, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 201 N. Third Ave, Walla Walla, WA 99362-1876

Phone (509) 527-7020 FAX (509) 527-7824

Website: www.nww.usace.army.mil

E-mail: cenww-pa@usace.army.mil